

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 3, 20, 22, 24-26 and 29 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

The following claim listing replaces all previous claim listings:

1. (currently amended) A lens molding die which comprises:

 a base member made of a hard material and having one surface of a predetermined shape; and

 a resin-molded surface layer formed on said one surface of the base member and having a surface shape corresponding to a predetermined shape of one surface of a lens to be produced, wherein:

 said surface shape of said resin-molded surface layer conforming to but not identical is uninterrupted and conforms to said predetermined shape of said base member;

said resin-molded surface layer is inactive with a material to be molded by said lens molding die:

a curvature of said surface shape of said resin-molded surface layer is different from a curvature of said predetermined shape of said base member; and

a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer is less than a thickness of said base member.

2. (original) The lens molding die according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined shape of said one surface of the base member is spherical while the surface shape of the resin-molded surface layer is aspheric.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The lens molding die according to ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, wherein said surface layer is made of a thermosetting resin material.

5. (currently amended) The lens molding die according to ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, wherein said surface layer is made of a ultraviolet-curable resin material.

6-20. (canceled)

21.(currently amended) A lens molding die comprising:

a base member having a surface configuration; and

a resin-molded surface layer on said surface of said base member and having a surface layer surface configuration corresponding to a shape of a surface of a lens to be produced, wherein:

 said surface layer surface configuration is uninterrupted and conforms ~~but is not~~ identical to said base member surface configuration;

a curvature of said surface layer surface configuration does not correspond to a curvature of said base member surface configuration; and

a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer is less than a thickness of said base member.

22. (canceled).

23. (currently amended) A lens molding die comprising:

a base member having a spherical surface; and

a resin-molded surface layer on said spherical surface and having an aspherical surface configuration corresponding to a shape of a surface of a lens to be produced,
wherein:

 said aspherical surface of said resin-molded surface layer ~~conforming but not identical~~
is uninterrupted and conforms to said spherical surface of said base member;

a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer is configured to vary only in accordance
with the aspheric component of said resin-molded surface layer; and

a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer is less than a thickness of said base
member.

24-26. (canceled)

27. (previously presented) The lens molding die according to claim 2, wherein a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer is configured to vary only in accordance with the aspheric component of said resin-molded surface layer.

28. (previously presented) The lens molding die according to claim 21, wherein:

said surface layer surface configuration of said resin-molded surface layer is aspheric;

 said base member surface configuration is spherical; and

 a thickness of said resin-molded surface layer is configured to vary only in accordance

with the aspheric component of the resin-molded surface layer.

29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) The lens molding die according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of
 said resin-molded surface layer ranges from **approximately** 0.2 mm to **approximately** 0.5 mm.

31. (currently amended) The lens molding die according to claim 21, wherein a thickness
 of said resin-molded surface layer ranges from **approximately** 0.2 mm to **approximately** 0.5
 mm.

32. (currently amended) The lens molding die according to claim 23, wherein a thickness
 of said resin-molded surface layer ranges from **approximately** 0.2 mm to **approximately** 0.5
 mm.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Applicant extends appreciation to the interview for the telephonic discussion of December 19, 2003, with Applicant's representative, Attorney William Boshnick. During this discussion, Attorney Boshnick read a proposed amendment to claim 1, which recited that the surface shape of the resin-molded surface layer is uninterrupted. The Examiner indicated that while this proposed amendment appeared to overcome the references of record, a new search would need to be conducted before agreeing to allow the application. Applicant notes that the amendments to independent claims 1, 21 and 23 all recite the above-noted "uninterrupted" feature.